

Oaklands
Maney Avenue, north end
Murfreesboro
Rutherford County
Tennessee

HABS No. TN-31

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OAKLANDS

HABS No. TN-31

Location: North end of Maney Avenue, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee.
Latitude: 35°51'22" Longitude: 86°23'06"

Present Owner and Occupant: Oaklands Association.

Present Use: House Museum and Headquarters of Oaklands Association.

Significance: This house figured prominently in local history during the Civil War, serving as headquarters for unit commanders of both the Union and Confederate armies. It was the scene of Colonel William W. Duffield's surrender of the 23rd Brigade to Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and was visited by Confederate President Jefferson Davis in 1862. The house was built in several successive stages, which present a continuum of architectural styles illustrating cultural life in Middle Tennessee during the 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: No definite dates are known. The original house, which is incorporated into the present structure, is believed to date from around 1815. The first addition was built around 1825. A second addition was built about 1859-60. There may be third and fourth additions, but this cannot be substantiated without sufficient evidence.
2. Architect: No records of the architect or builders are known to exist. The original house may have been built for the Murfree (Murphree) heirs, but there is also a possibility that it may have been built for the Maney family.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Oaklands stands on land first granted on March 7, 1786, by the State of North Carolina to Ezekiel White. In October of 1798 274 acres of land were sold by White to Colonel Hardy Murfree. Colonel Murfree, from whom the city of Murfreesboro takes its name, eventually owned over 40,000 acres of land in Tennessee. He died intestate in 1809. His land holdings were so extensive that the Tennessee Legislature passed an act in 1812 empowering the Court of Williamson County to appoint seven commissioners to make an equitable division of his lands among his heirs. The Ezekiel White tract was a part of the

portioned part allotted to one of his daughters, Sarah Hardy, who was married to Dr. James Maney.

The land remained the property of the Maney family until 1884. At Dr. Maney's death in 1872, it was inherited by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Maney. In 1884 Oaklands was sold at auction to settle the estate of Lewis Maney, who had died in 1882. The house and 200 acres were purchased by Mrs. Elizabeth T. Swope. Mrs. Swope's will of 1890 left the property to her daughter, Mrs. George M. Darrow. On April 10, 1912, the house and its 29 remaining acres were sold for \$18,000 to Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Roberts. In 1936, Mrs. Roberts, then a widow, sold the property to Albert Brevard Jetton and his sister, Rebecca Jetton. Miss Jetton survived her brother and sold the house and its 29 acres to the City of Murfreesboro on September 6, 1957. The acreage became a city park, and the house and garden were deeded to the Oaklands Association on May 4, 1959. The Oaklands Association had been formed to restore and maintain the house and to open it to the public.

4. Original plans and construction: The house has been restored to what architectural and historical evidence indicate to have been its original plan and construction of mid-19th century.
5. Alterations and additions: The original house, circa 1815, consisted of two rooms, one above the other. Behind was a kitchen, connected to the main dwelling by a breezeway or "dogtrot." This house faced east.

The first addition, circa 1825, was brick, with chimneys on the east and west ends. It faced south. There were entrances on the south and east sides. This structure was added to the original building.

In the late 1850s a second addition, consisting of two large rooms and a hall upstairs and down, was made to the south front of the house. The front center room of the first addition was united with the new front hall and a semicircular staircase placed in it. To accommodate the higher ceilings of the new addition and to relate the exterior lines of the older structures, it was necessary to raise the roof of the middle structure about four feet. The work was probably completed in 1860.

As previously mentioned, there may be third and fourth additions, of which their existence has not been substantiated.

During the occupation of the house by the Darrow family, the front porch was built probably sometime between 1890-1900.

Two rear 20th century frame additions have been built.

The house was vacated for a short period after its purchase by the City of Murfreesboro. During this period it was vandalized, and its windows and mantels were damaged. Repairs and replacements have since been made.

- B. Historical Context: Dr. James Maney, who entered medical practice in Murfreesboro in 1820, was considered one of that community's leading physicians. He had extensive business interests resulting from his own activities, as well as his wife's large inheritance from her father's estate. The Maney home was noted for the hospitality shown to many prominent people of the time. By acquaintance and marriage the family was well connected in Tennessee.

From March until May 1862, Oaklands was the command headquarters for Colonel William W. Duffield of the 9th Michigan Regiment. Colonel Duffield left Murfreesboro in May 1862, but returned on July 12 with Major General Thomas Crittenden, who was to be commander of the Murfreesboro garrison. The morning following their arrival, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest staged his "birthday raid" and captured Murfreesboro. The surrender took place at Oaklands.

Notable guests at Oaklands during the period Murfreesboro remained in Confederate hands included General Braxten Bragg, Colonel William Wirt Adams, and General Leonidas Polk. The most notable guest of the Maney's was President Jefferson Davis who arrived in snow-covered Murfreesboro on December 12, 1862.

From the Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863, until the end of the war, the city was under Federal occupation. Union officers who made Oaklands their headquarters were Major General Thomas Crittenden and Brigadier General Horatio P. VanCleve.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This brick building, embodying several successive stages of construction, presents a continuum of architectural styles--from simple farm house to Italianate villa--illustrative of culture life in Middle Tennessee during the 19th century.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This irregular-shaped, two-story, five-bay-front brick house measures 73'-10" x 62'-0".

2. Foundations: Tennessee limestone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Constructed of natural red brick laid in common bond, the exterior walls are 18" thick. The walls have been painted a number of times, and traces of the paint remain.
4. Structural system: Solid masonry bearing walls.
5. Porches, etc.: A one-story arcaded porch extends across the entire front (south) facade and around the corner onto the east elevation. It measures approximately 12' wide. The porch roof has a heavy overhanging cornice with brackets and a paneled frieze, supported by twelve-inch-square wooden columns with chamfered corners, on pedestals; the roof extends at the west end to form a porte-cochere or carriage landing. It is covered with felt paper. The porch stands on an exposed foundation of smooth ashlar stone blocks. A run of four brick steps approaches the porch in front of the main entrance, while a single stone step rises from the porte-cochere to the porch.

A "dogtrot" covered by an extension of the pitched roof runs between a door in the west wall of the northernmost brick building and a door in the east wall of the frame kitchen addition. The floor of the dogtrot is a wooden platform, approached from the backyard by two rough stone steps.

Several stoops of simple design are found on the east, west and north sides of the house.

6. Chimneys: There are six brick chimneys--an inside end chimney on the north gable end of the rear brick building; an inside end chimney on the east gable end of the middle brick building and another at what was once its west gable end, but is now at the interior of the building; an inside end chimney on the east gable end of the front or southernmost building; and two partially exposed brick end chimneys on the west corbie-stepped gable end.

Also, there is a small brick chimney in the large frame addition.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The house's most notable doorway is located in its south (front) side, in the central pavilion. This doorway is arched and within it are the French-type doors and a one-light semi-circular transom. It is flanked on both sides with fancy arch-headed sidelights and narrow pilasters with foliate-pattern capitals. It is finished off with a compound frame.

Other doors are of the ordinary single-door types.

- b. Windows and shutters: There are eight rectangular windows on the front facade, arranged symmetrically, two on either side of the central pavilion at both levels. The windows on the first floor are almost the full height of the porch. They have four-over-four-light, double-hung sash with compound framing. Their sills are at the level of the porch floor, and the lower sash may be raised to permit egress to the porch. There is decorative foliated scrollwork across the top of the window frames and at each of the four corners. The windows at the second level are also four-over-four-light double-hung sash with compound frames. Their heavy horizontal cornices are surmounted by foliated scrolls which converge at a stylized lily motif above the center of the cornice. There are similar foliated scrolls at the corners of the window frames just under the cornices.

In the projecting pavilion above the main entrance, a round-arched window-opening with compound framing contains two narrow, arched, four-light windows, having vertically stacked lights and a spandrel at the joining of the arches. Above, an arched hoodmold with pendant label stops is surmounted by foliated scrolls which converge at a stylized shield with bar sinister at the top of the arch.

In general, the windows in the brick sections of the house are four-over-four-light, double-hung wooden sash, while those in the frame additions are six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

8. Roofs:

- a. Shape, covering: The main block has a pitched gable roof with a brick corbie-stepped gable along the northwest slope. The covering is composition shingles.

The roofs of the back brick buildings are gabled. The large frame addition is likewise gabled, with a small extension on its rear north wall. The small frame addition, which is adjoined to the east wall of the large frame addition, has a shed roof. Another shed roof is joined to the roof of the small frame addition, and it is used to shelter the door in the brick addition.

- b. Cornice: On the front facade, a heavy overhanging cornice with brackets and paneled frieze returns onto the east and west elevations. There are two openings in the eaves, each extending the distance between two brackets. These openings are located above the second-floor windows immediately to the left and right of the central pavilion.

The brick and frame additions have simple cornices.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The entry hall leads to various first-level rooms including parlors either side of the entry; a sitting room; dining room; and attached kitchen. The central hall on the second level opens into the bedrooms and secondary stair hall on the east side of the house.
2. Stairway: The curved main stairway is cantilevered in the upper floor. It has a heavy turned newel and turned balusters (two per tread). The open-string ends are decorated with scrollwork. (Other stairways were not recorded at the time of this survey).
3. Flooring: Most of the house has oak floors of recent origin. The original yellow poplar flooring with boards ranging in width from 6-1/2" to 14", is found in the side entry.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The ceilings are painted plaster. The walls are painted and papered plaster. Interior trim includes cornices and baseboards with a variety of moldings.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The nine-foot tall wooden doors are 2/2 recessed panels upstairs and 3/3 recessed panels downstairs. Jambs are 2/2 recessed panels. The surrounds are "heavy" and have a variety of moldings.
 - b. Windows: The windows have surrounds similar to the door surrounds.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south-southwest on a circular drive at the north end of Maney Avenue in a setting of lawns, shrubbery, and old trees. A brick walk laid in herringbone pattern approaches the steps before the main entrance. Gardens are laid out east of the house; outdoor furniture is disposed about the garden.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Building Conservation Technology, Inc., 1555 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C., has drawings of the house, including details and isometrics. They also have a report on this building.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Register of Deeds, Rutherford County, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

2. Secondary and published sources:

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